

**REMARKS**

Claims 12-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-11 are canceled; claim 13 is amended; and claims 22-25 are added herein.

Claims 1-12 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-11 are canceled herein. It is respectfully submitted that claim 12 should be considered in the present application. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 12 is sufficiently like the subject matter of the elected claims that examining this claim in the present application would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. In particular, a search on examination of product claims 13-25 would encompass a search and examination of method claim 12.

Claims 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 13 has been amended to clarify the rejected phrase. In particular, claim 13 has been amended to recite that "said first and second concaves are provided with a center of said hole as centers in concentric relation." Based on this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the positional relationship of the first and second concaves in the recording medium is clear. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over WO 98/47140 to Sandstrom (hereinafter "Sandstrom") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,280,660 to Takakuwa et al. (hereinafter "Takakuwa"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 13 is directed to a recording medium having a recording layer, a disk-shaped resin layer provided on the recording layer, and a hole at the center of the resin layer. Provided on the surface of the resin layer, the recording medium has ring shaped first and second concaves, a resin film formation area between the concaves, and a ridgy resin film on the resin film formation area.

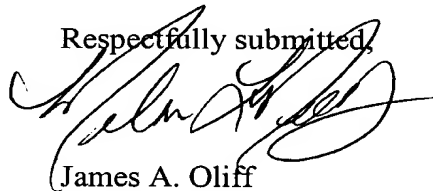
Sandstrom does not teach or suggest a recording medium having two concaves formed on one disk nor a ridgy resin film formed between the two concaves. In addition,

Takakuwa does not overcome the deficiencies of Sandstrom. In particular, Takakuwa does not teach or suggest a ridgy resin film or concaves. Therefore, the rejection over Sandstrom in view of Takakuwa should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 12-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 5, 2003

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